July 1, 1985

TO: Lowell P. Braxton, Administration

FROM: Thomas J. Suchoski, Geologist TJS

RE: Wasatch Tar Sands, DOE/047/~~017~~, Uintah County, Utah

The Wasatch tar sands operation was visited on June 20, 1985 by Wayne Hedberg and Tom Suchoski. The disturbance was found across the Seep Ridge road from the Uintah County Tar Sands Pit which is presently being reclaimed. The disturbance associated with the Wasatch tar sand operation consists of a bench-pad type construction. The pad area is approximately one to one-half acres in size with an access road from the ridge road down to the pad. The site is located in the NE/4, SW/4, Section 32, T14S, R23E. Presently there is no equipment found on-site, neither is there any evidence of who the operator is. During future visits to Uintah Seep Ridge area, it would be beneficial to check on this site occasionally to determine whether revegetation is occuring or whether continuing operations is taking place. Native revegetation on the site is very minimal. The pad area is devoid of vegetation except on very periphery grasses (indian ricegrass, and cheatgrass associated with the road access.

For future visits to the site, the access road is on the bend just after leaving the pipeline. (turn east) Its occurance is evidenced by a small cut in the drainage ditch at the side of the road and a stretch of yellow sweetclover which has been introduced right in the road area. The sweetclover cover is fairly dense and the evidence of a road is minimal. The yellow sweetclover extends approximately 50 feet along the access road to the first bend, at which point, native grasses and a dirt road exist.

At the very upper end the operation right adjacent to the access road there is a trench approximately 50 feet long and 5 to 7 feet deep in which an apparent attempt was made to access the tar sands. Not being able to find rich deposits or finding overburden thicker than desired, the effort was abandoned. Further development appears to have taken place down the hill side along the ridge.

jvb
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